

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5935

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB EEC

SUBJ: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 13-14

A PREVIEW

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 6553, (B) BRUSSELS 6546, (C) COPENHAGEN 6310
(NOTAL), (D) BRUSSELS 3315, (E) BRUSSELS 3068

1. THE 33-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AT ITS APRIL 13-14
MEETING WILL EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF THE ETUC'S WEST
EUROPE-WIDE "WORKER ACTION DAY" ON APRIL 5. A PRELIMINARY
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ASSESSMENT BY A SECRETARIAT MEMBER IS THAT THE
DAY WAS A "MODEST SUCCESS," BECAUSE "SOMETHING WAS
HAPPENING IN ALMOST ALL OUR 18 COUNTRIES" ON THAT DAY,
AND BECAUSE IT RECEIVED EXCELLENT MASS MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. THE COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF APRIL 5 WILL INCLUDE REPORTS
ON CALLS ETUC OFFICIALS MADE ON EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT

ROY JENKINS AND ON OTHER EUROPEAN LEADERS (REF B). THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO PLAN NEXT STEPS IN ETUC EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FULL EMPLOYMENT.

3. OTHER MAJOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT:

A. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE. THE INSTITUTE, A RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND TRAINING CENTER ATTACHED TO THE ETUC, WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY (REF B), AND THE NEXT STEP IS TO APPOINT A DIRECTOR TO HEAD A STAFF OF ABOUT 10 PERSONS, SUPPLEMENTING AN ETUC STAFF OF 26. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE ETUC HAS TWO "SERIOUS" (I.E., VERY WELL QUALIFIED) APPLICANTS FOR THE JOB: GUNTER KOPKE, A WEST GERMAN WHO IS BRUSSELS-BASED SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN METALWORKERS FEDERATION, AND DOMENICO VALCAVI, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN CISL.

B. REFORM OF THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (ESC). THE EC NINE GOVERNMENTS WILL NOMINATE THIS SUMMER MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE ESC FOR A NEW FOUR-YEAR TERM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1978. PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO ETUC PRESSURE, THE APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ISSUED A GENERAL STATEMENT URGING "ALL PARTIES CONCERNED" TO UPGRADE THE ESC'S "ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS"

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(REF C). IN THE ETUC VIEW THIS SHOULD INVOLVE GRANTING UNION REPRESENTATIVES "PARITY" IN THE ESC (AT PRESENT, FARM OWNERS, SMALL BUSINESSMEN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PROFESSIONS, BY VOTING WITH EMPLOYERS, OFTEN PUT LABOR MEMBERS IN THE MINORITY). THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL CONSIDER A SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO APPLY PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS THROUGH A PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPLAINING ETUC VIEWS ON ESC REFORM.

C. LOME CONVENTION. THE ETUC IS ASKING FOR THE INCLUSION OF A "SOCIAL DIMENSION" COVERING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR STANDARDS IN THE EC'S NEW DEVELOPMENT AID AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT LOME CONVENTION, WHICH EXPIRES IN MARCH 1980 AND COVERS 53 AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC (ACP) COUNTRIES (REF D). THE ETUC, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU), IS PLANNING A MEETING IN BRUSSELS APRIL 17-19 TO DISCUSS LOME II WITH ABOUT 15 UNION REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACP COUNTRIES.

4. THE SUBJECT OF AFFILIATION REQUESTS IS NOT

ON THE PARIL 13-14 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA. ACCORDING
TO SECRETARIAT SOURCE, A RECENT LETTER FROM THE SPANISH
WORKERS COMMISSION, WHICH ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY MATHIAS
HINTERSCHEID ON APRIL 4 THOUGHT MIGHT BE A REQUEST FOR
AFFILIATION (REF A), WAS ACTUALLY REPORT ON WHAT THE
SPANISH GROUP PLANNED TO DO ON WORKERS' ACTION DAY.
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